



Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan

1ST PUBLIC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020
VIA ZOOM

This Blueway Trail Plan project is being prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

Welcome

Thanks to all for joining us today at our first public meeting via Zoom.

- Attendees will be in listen mode by default.
- Please use the “raise your hand” function to ask a question or make a comment or,
- You can also send a question or comment to suffolkbluewayinput@gmail.com during or after this meeting.
- There will be a Q&A session at the end of the presentation



Presenting Today

- Suffolk County
 - Legislator Kara Hahn
 - Sarah Lansdale
 - Andy Freleng
- Consultant Team
 - Nelson Pope Voorhis
 - Kathy Eiseman
 - Taylor Garner
 - CJ2
 - Judy White
 - MUD Workshop
 - Shachi Pandey



Today's Agenda

- Welcome!
- What is a Blueway Trail?
- Scope of the Project and Work Completed
 - Public Engagement, PAC, and Municipal Involvement (Towns and Villages)
 - Launch Site Improvements
 - Inventory, Data Synthesis and Initial Prioritization
 - Fieldwork
 - Identification of Projects
- Next Steps
- Q&A



Welcoming Remarks by Legislator Kara Hahn



- Suffolk County is a unique place and has more than 1,000 miles of shoreline that provides scores of opportunities for recreation and ecotourism.
- Kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding and rowing are wonderful ways to get out onto the water for exercise, appreciation of the natural environment or just enjoy a beautiful day on the water!
- Establishing a Blueway Trail is a natural first step to link the many existing launching locations and provide information for safe access to the water

Goals for Planning a Blueway Trail

- Identify information needed for a safe and fun paddling experience.
- Identify locations which maximize economic benefits for area businesses and the County as a whole.
- Work with communities and local governments.
- Identify improvements and funding opportunities for implementation in the next phase.



What is a Blueway Trail?

- Establishing a Blueway Trail will essentially take **the mystery out of getting on the water in Suffolk County** by making information readily available about:
 - Where to park
 - Where to paddle (access, suitable route, outfitters)
 - Where to eat
 - Other things to do nearby
- Through the Blueway Trail planning, the County is identifying projects for launch sites such as launch improvements, restrooms, boat storage, and improved parking.



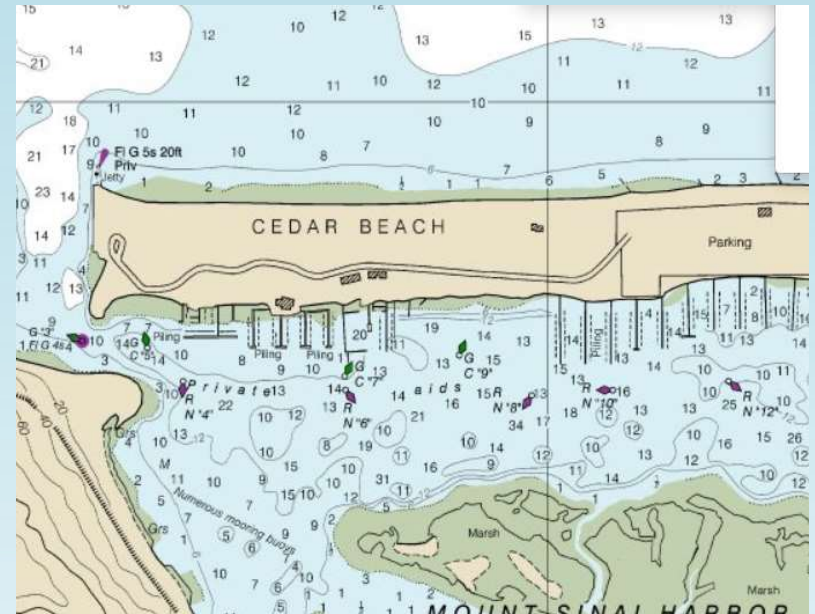
Guiding Principles for this Phase of the Project

- Experienced paddlers don't necessarily need a Blueway Trail to get out on the water
- For families, new paddlers
- Even more important now as it provides access to a socially distanced activity
- A Blueway promotes eco-tourism and economic development



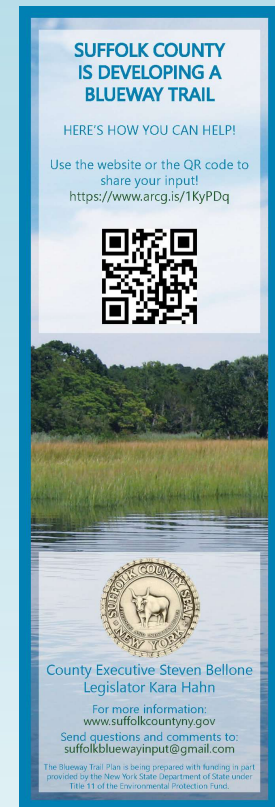
Work Completed to Date

- Continual Plan Advisory Committee Involvement and Public Engagement
- Inventoried existing launch locations (and wish list of improvements)
- Organized data/information into a usable form
- Prioritized locations
- Conducted field inspections and reached out to municipal partners
- Identified 19 of the 20 initial project locations
- Prepared draft project profile sheets



Public Engagement

- Blueway Trail Plan Advisory Committee Meetings
- Project Webpage
- Online inventory tool developed and publicized through social media, bookmarks
- Bookmarks distributed at
 - County parks,
 - outfitters
 - libraries
- Booth at the Seafood Festival



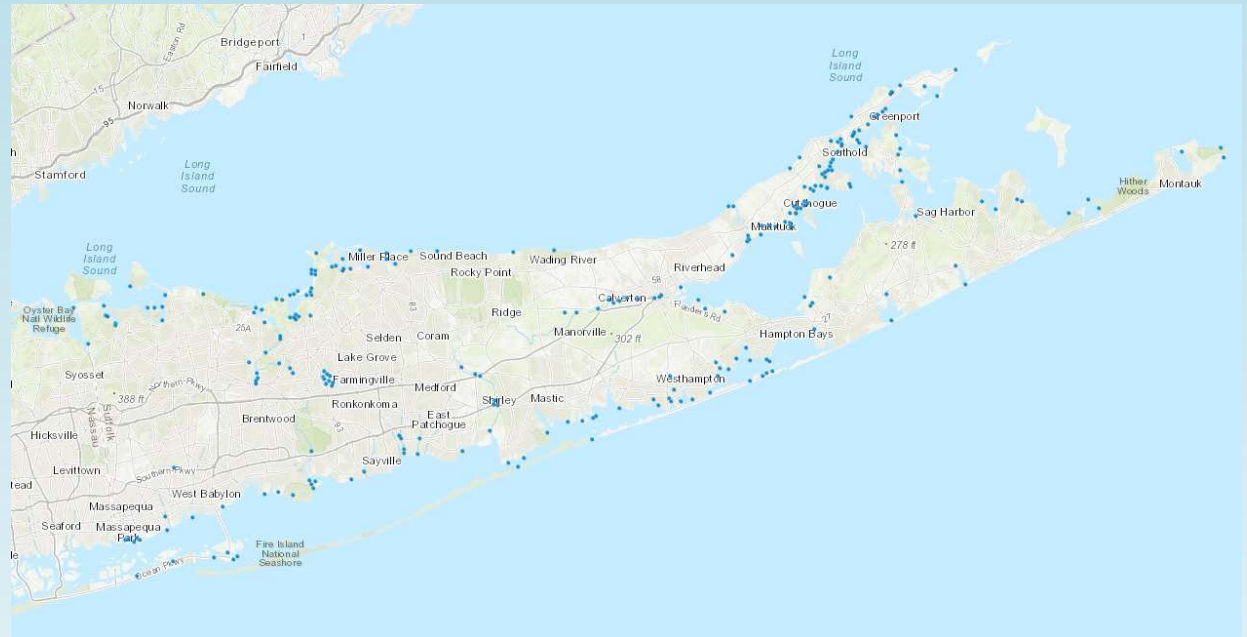
Public Input

- At the seafood festival we found that people are enthusiastic about this project
- At the seafood festival last summer – we spoke with over a hundred people
- Many paddlers and “non-paddlers” commented that a Blueway Trail Plan would benefit them personally



PAC and Public Input on Launch Sites

Launch Sites by Town	
Town	# of Sites
Babylon	13
Brookhaven	49
East Hampton	12
Huntington	14
Islip	18
Riverhead	10
Shelter Island	5
Smithtown	30
Southampton	35
Southold	73



259 Launch Sites Inventoried

Wish List for Improvements

- Greatest number of responses:
 - Parking agreements for nonresidents for restricted lots
 - Established drop off locations where parking is more remote
 - Floating (small boat accessible) docks
 - Restrooms (port-a-potties)
 - Boat storage



Additional Wish List Requests

- Trail information (distance markers)
- Suggested routes and stopping points
 - One suggestion was to partner with businesses to create a pub crawl program to include restaurants/delis – with a brewery at the end
- Repaired boat ramps
- Short term tie up points
- Freshwater wash down stations
- Cleaning stations for fish



Note: Wayfinding signage was not specifically identified in the wish lists (but this would be an important component for a County-wide blueway trail plan)

Typical launching environment

Sharing with boaters with trailers



Drag along the beach



Launch Site Access Improvement

- Floating dock
 - Cut outs for kayaks/canoes with support beneath waterline
 - Attaches to floating dock.



Universal Access Options

Accessible ramp and float



Mobi-Mat ®



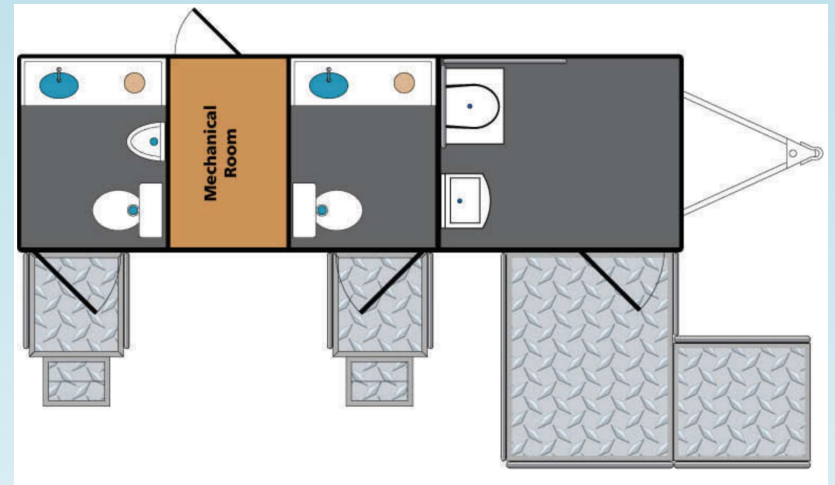
Suffolk County Parks has already invested in Mobi-Mats for accessibility to beaches

Comfort Station Options

- Suffolk County has conducted extensive research in alternatives to individual sanitary systems.
- Innovative/Alternative On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (I/A Systems) now preferred option like this one in Amagansett
- Example at Sylvester Manor used natural constructed wetlands as treatment system
- Portable restroom trailers another option



Seasonal Comfort Station Option



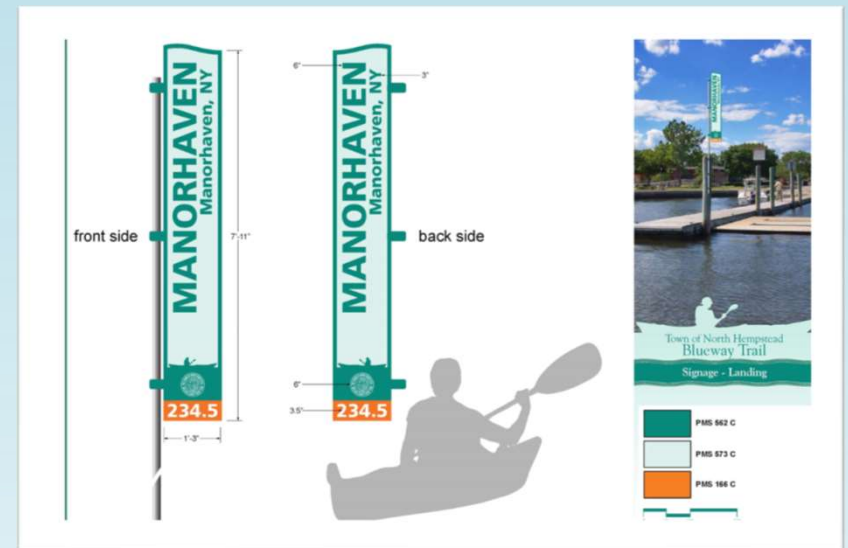
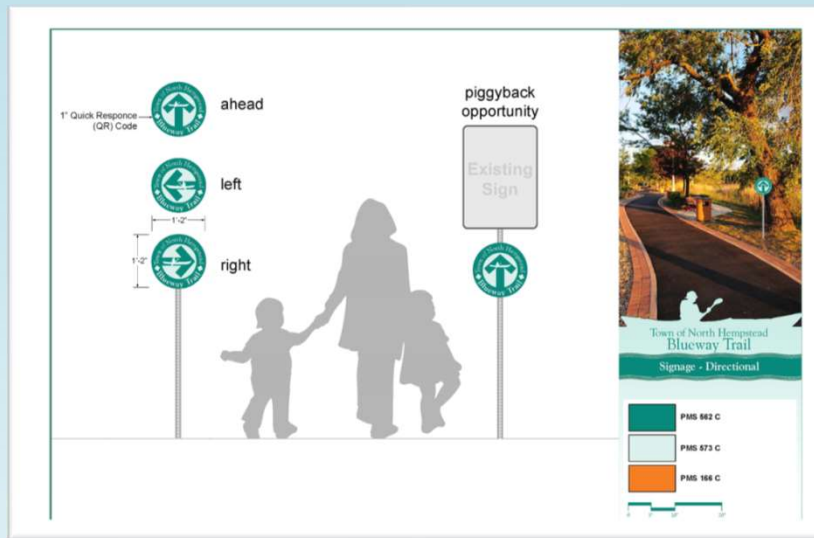
This portable restroom model is ADA accessible.

Parking

- Provide information on where to park for launch sites
- Establish off street parking stalls
- Include pervious pavers/grass-pave options which have less impact than impervious pavement
- Establish paddler drop off locations (pull offs)
- Establish Intermunicipal Agreements (IMAs) for parking (possible day or seasonal passes for paddlers)



Signage Program



Samples from the North Hempstead Blueway Trail Plan (prepared by NPV Team in 2013). Consideration for adopting the South Shore Blueway logo County wide – or create new brand and work with municipalities to allow wayfinding and other signs to be installed.

Kiosk Sign



Option to provide a local waterbody map and suggested loops as well as to provide safety information and information about nearby downtowns and attractions. (Sample from the North Hempstead Blueway Trail Plan).

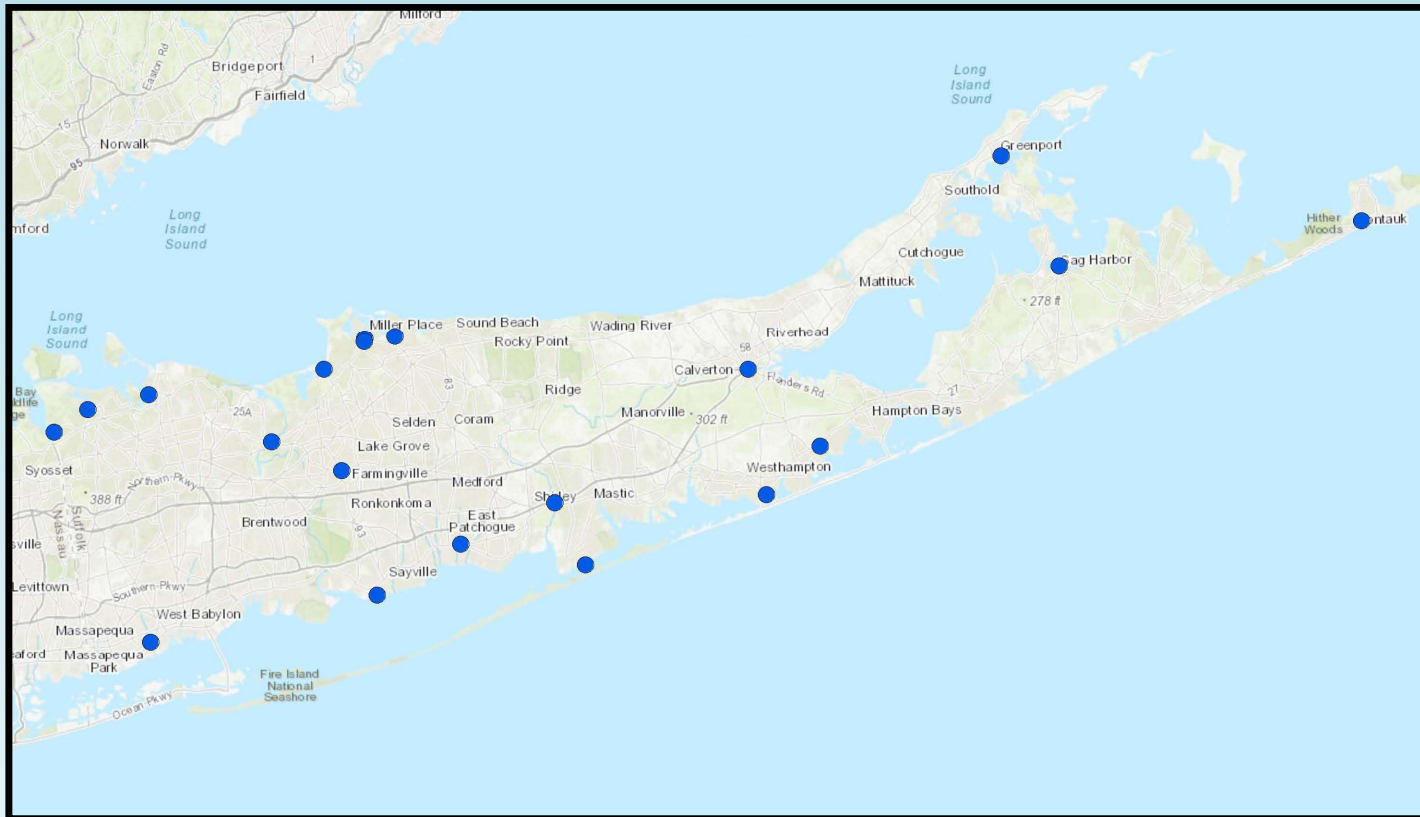
Prioritization Model Initial Results

- Using a prioritization model, we narrowed down the list from 259 sites to 24 priority locations for the first phase of implementation projects.
- Each site was inspected in the field and based upon site visits, some sites were removed and new sites added.
- Currently, there are 19 priority locations and we are working on identifying #20.

Top 20+ Sites

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Greenport Train Station (179) | 11. Shore Road, East Setauket, NY (136) |
| 2. Seaport Deli Setauket Harbor –Park next to Kayak shop (137) | 12. Paul T. Given Suffolk County Park (118) |
| 3. Windmill Beach, Sag Harbor (187) | 13. Santapogue Creek, Maple Avenue/West Lake Drive (42) |
| 4. Riverhead East (94) | 14. Carmen's river canoe Montauk Highway, Brookhaven (65) |
| 5. Stevens Park, Stevens Lane, Westhampton Beach (72) | 15. West Meadow Creek, Stony Brook (128) |
| 6. Jeanne Garant Harborfront Park, or Centennial Beach Village of Port Jefferson (130) | 16. Lake Ronkonkoma County Park (#106) |
| 7. 395 Montauk Hwy, s/o highway dock, Southampton (77) | 17. Northport Park, Northport Village (#207) |
| 8. Cold Spring Harbor boat ramp, Huntington (1) | 18. Ford Pond Park, Montauk (#148) |
| 9. Green's Creek Suffolk County Park, West Sayville (48) | 19. Violets Cove, Mastic (#208) |
| 10. Mill Dam Road, Huntington, NY (199) | 20. _____ |

Initial Blueway Trail Launch Sites



Currently identified 19 sites and working on identifying the 20th site

Fieldwork

- 24 Field visits to date
- Identify potential improvements at the priority sites and partnerships
- Will ultimately prepare project profile sheets for 20 sites



Village of Greenport

Existing Launch Site Recommendations

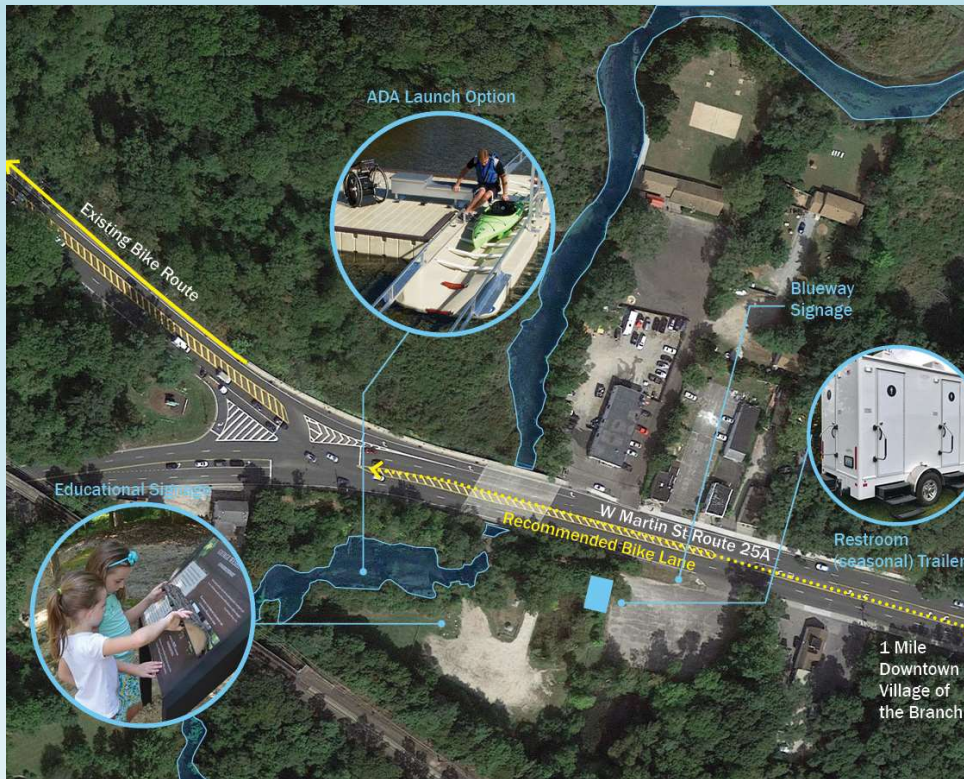


- Some launch sites require little improvement
- Example in Stony Brook Harbor
- Existing launch area from the shore with outfitter adjacent
- Opportunity for signage, stormwater project pending, possible stabilization of the bank
- Input received that a better location is needed for access to West Meadow Creek due to high currents
- Exploring options for improvements at the Town Beach to the north for boat storage and signage

Note that the above visualization does not reflect an exact location/slope of an accessible ramp. Future engineering and input will be required to identify the specific improvements and locations to factor in local considerations and needs.

Project Profiles

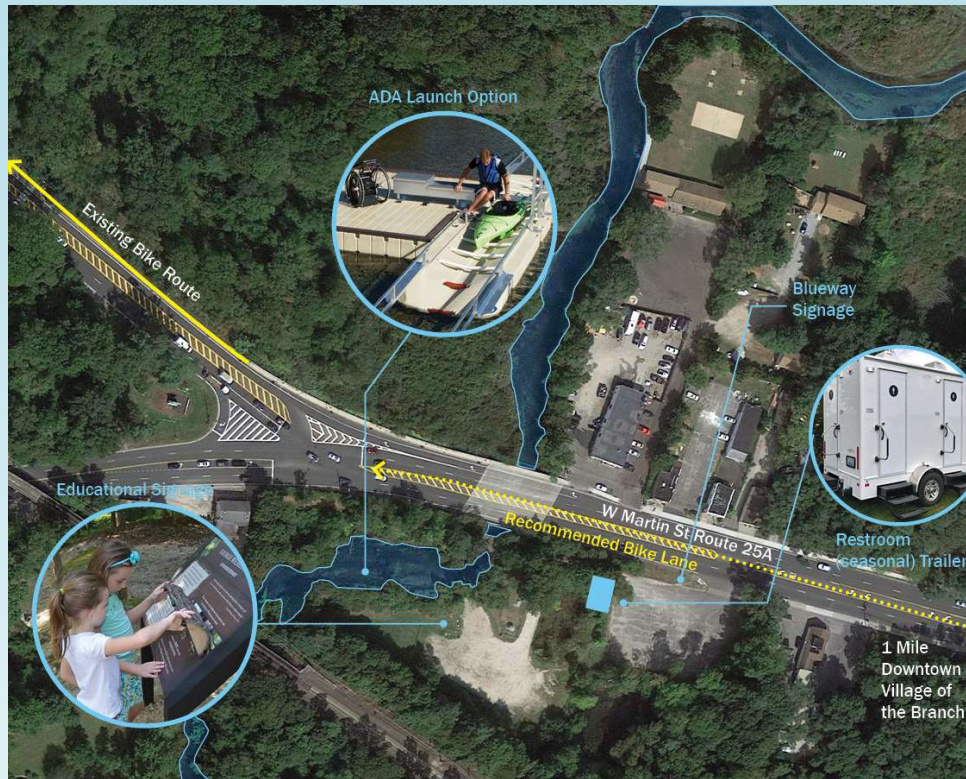
Example of Conceptual Improvements at Paul T. Given Park



Note that the above visualization does not reflect an exact location/slope of an accessible ramp. Future engineering and input will be required to identify the specific improvements and locations to factor in local considerations and needs.

Project Profiles

Example of Conceptual Improvements at Paul T. Given Park



- Paul T. Given Park, Smithtown
- Nissequogue River
- Popular and established launch site
- Recommendations:
 - ADA Accessible ramp and float
 - Restrooms (portable seasonal)
 - Launch Sign
 - Information Sign

Note that the above visualization does not reflect an exact location/slope of an accessible ramp. Future engineering and input will be required to identify the specific improvements and locations to factor in local considerations and needs.

Project Profiles

Example of Conceptual Improvements at Mill Dam Marina



Note that the above visualization does not reflect an exact location/slope of an accessible ramp. Future engineering and input will be required to identify the specific improvements and locations to factor in local considerations and needs.

Project Profiles

Example of Conceptual Improvements at Mill Dam Marina



- Town of Huntington Marina
- Existing boat ramp with dock
- Recommendations:
 - Potential kayak float add on
 - Launch Sign
 - Information Sign
 - Explore option for a non-resident parking agreement

Note that the above visualization does not reflect an exact location/slope of an accessible ramp. Future engineering and input will be required to identify the specific improvements and locations to factor in local considerations and needs.

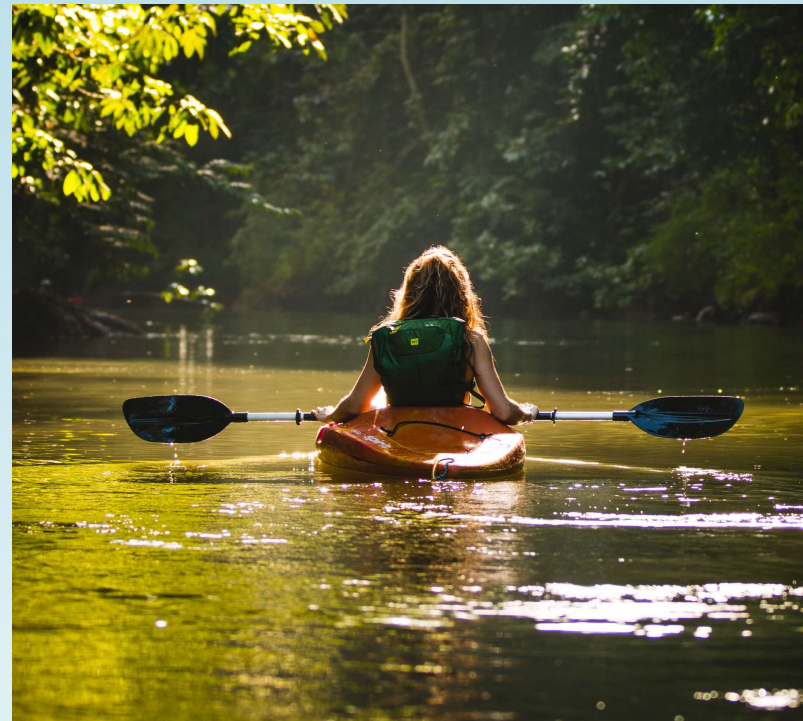
Next Steps

- Synthesize input received from the public for incorporation into the Plan.
- Continue to reach out to municipal partners regarding recommended launch sites and improvements
- Finalize project profile sheets (October)
- Prepare Blueway Trail Plan (End of November)
- Host a Final Public Meeting (December 2020)



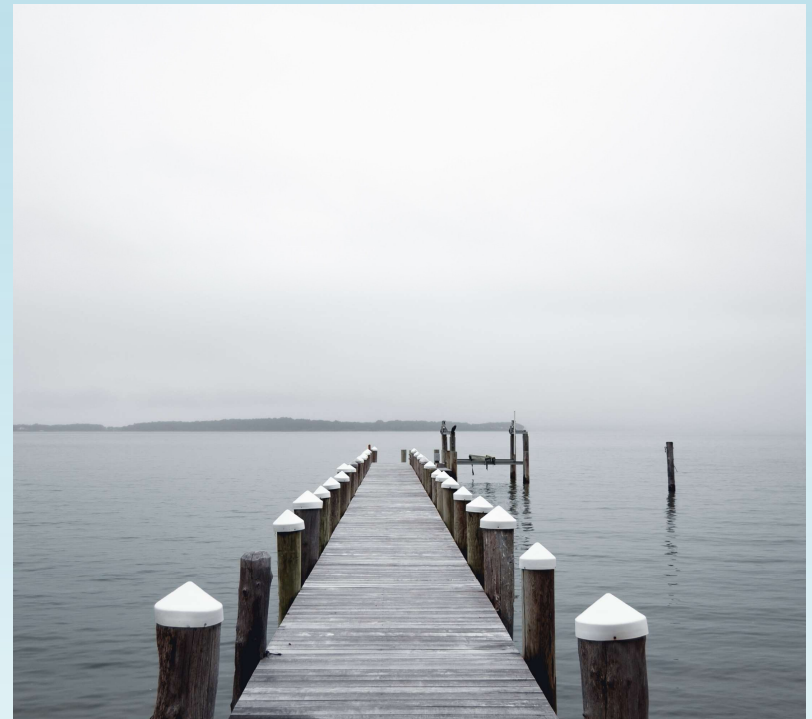
How you can help...

- Review draft recommendations as posted on the County webpage:
www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Economic-Development-and-Planning/Blueway-Trail
- Provide feedback via email:
suffolkbluewayinput@gmail.com



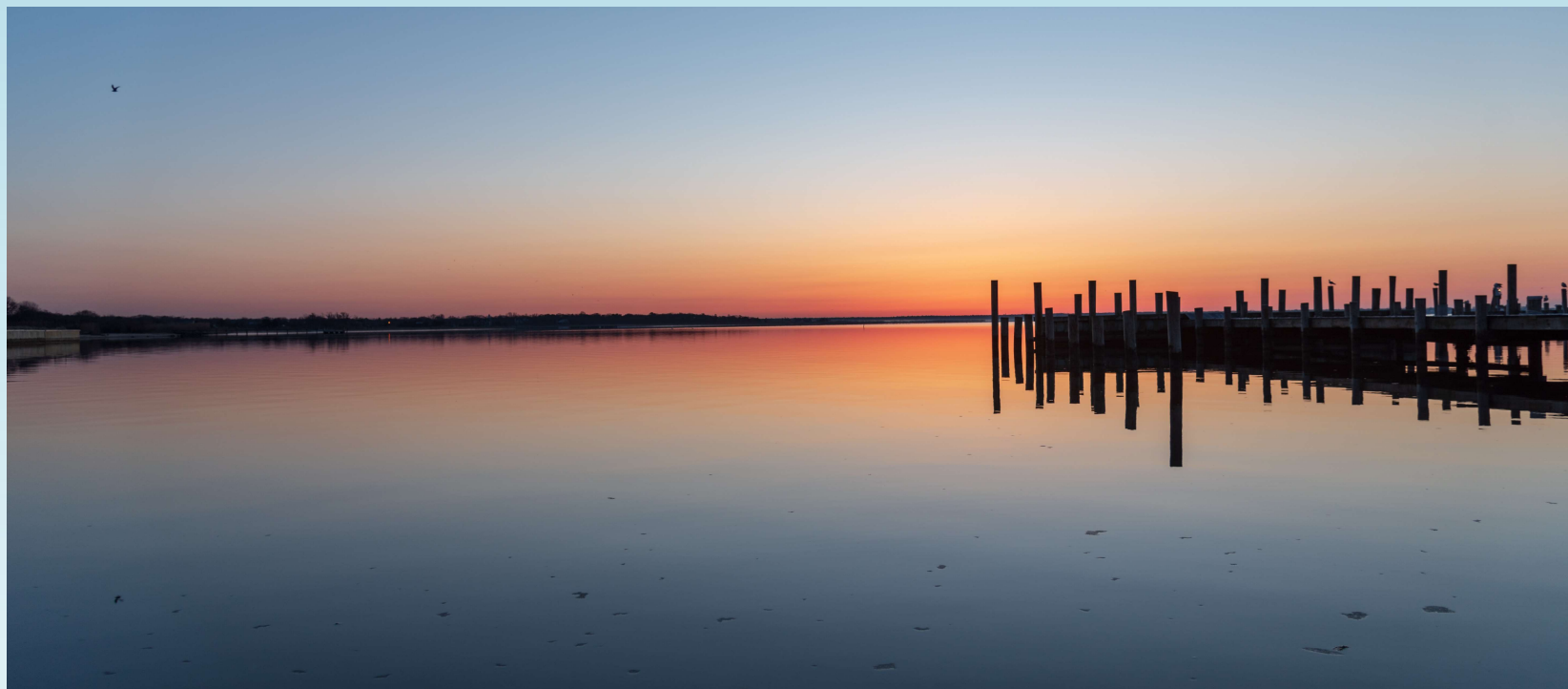
Q/A

- To ask a question or provide input, use the “raise your hand” option and we can unmute your microphone



Provide feedback via email to suffolkbluewayinput@gmail.com

Thank you for joining us today!



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